

Forwarded herewith is Form PTO-1449 (Modified) listing patents, publications or other information ("documents") believed to be relevant to the subject application. It is respectfully requested that these documents be considered by the Examiner and an initialed copy of each Form PTO-1449 be returned to the undersigned. Copies of the documents listed on PTO-1449 (Modified) are supplied herewith.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. subsections 1.56, 1.97, 1.98 and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure § 609. If for some reason the Examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be called so that any deficiencies can be remedied.

REMARKS REGARDING CITED ART

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 19-5425. **A duplicate copy of this Notice is enclosed for this purpose.** In particular, in the event that an Office Action has crossed in the mail with this Information Disclosure Statement, the

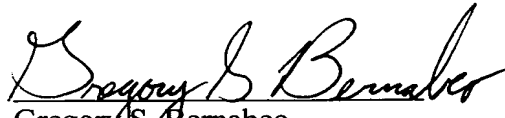
Application No. 09/935,287

Docket No. P23,305-A USA

Commissioner is authorized to charge the above-named deposit account for any fees required pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.17(p) or 1.17(i)(1).

Respectfully submitted,

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